

# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC# **313-2016**

## LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: July 25, 2016

SUBJECT: **Neat Streets Miami Grant Award**

In an effort to expand Miami-Dade's tree canopy by leveraging local resources, Neat Streets Miami awarded the City of Miami Beach a Street Tree Matching grant for \$7,500 for the North Beach Reforestation Project. This project includes installation of 43 new canopy trees in the north beach neighborhood along Marseille Drive and Calais Drive on Normandy Isle.

The following tree species will be utilized: Green Buttonwood, Gumbo Limbo, Wild Tamarind, Verawood, Pigeon Plum, Simpsons Stopper, Jamaica Caper and Lignum Vitae. These Florida Friendly species have been selected because they are hardy, salt tolerant species that provide unique attributes that are well suited for this project. In order to ensure tree establishment, gator watering bags will be used as necessary. The trees' height range will be from 10 to 12 feet.

### BENEFITS OF TREE CANOPY

- habitat for wildlife
- carbon sequestration
- release of oxygen
- buffer from wind/storm related events
- stormwater mitigation
- soil erosion prevention
- electricity need reduction
- noise mitigation

The benefits of the urban canopy provide a higher quality of life year around for our residents. There is a direct correlation to the presence of trees and reduction of ambient temperature (heat island effect) typically in the range of 20-45 degrees Fahrenheit (EPA, 2015). As last June was the hottest month ever recorded globally, the cooling effect trees provide is of paramount importance (Huffington Post, 2016). Trees also increase the overall walkability/safety of an area, with increased pedestrian use, greater community involvement and traffic calming effects ("Trees for People, Urban Forestry 101" <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/treesforpeople.shtml>. Forest Service: Urban and Community Forestry, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 20 July 2016).

Through continued pursuit of reforestation grants such as the Neat Streets Miami Grant, the City will continue to diversify and enhance its urban forest ensuring its preservation and enjoyment by residents and visitors for many years to come.

Please advise if there are any additional questions.

JM/SMT/AK/ESW/MW

Attached: Project Tree Pallet

# Neat Streets Miami Grant Tree Palette

## Green Buttonwood



- **Distinctive Characteristics:** Moderate growth, large spreading canopy, known commonly as the “fourth” mangrove due to prevalence in wetland areas.
- **Flowering Season:** Year round, flowers insignificant
- **Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen
- **Native Origin:** Native to Florida
- **Salt Tolerance:** High

# Gumbo Limbo



- **Distinctive Characteristics:** Fast growing, reddish peeling bark, unique structure with medium/large canopy.
- **Flowering Season:** Winter, spring, flowers insignificant
- **Leaf Persistence:** Briefly deciduous
- **Native Origin:** Native to Florida
- **Salt Tolerance:** High



## Wild Tamarind



- **Distinctive Characteristics:** Fast growing, edible fruit, medium/large canopy.
- **Flower Color:** White, cream, gray
- **Flowering Season:** Spring, summer
- **Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen to semi-deciduous
- **Native Origin:** Native to Florida
- **Salt tolerance:** High

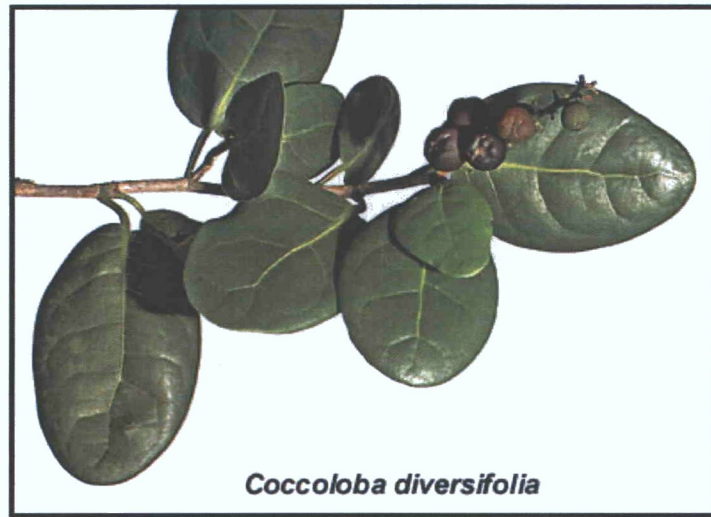
# Verawood



- **Distinctive Characteristics:** Fast growing, attractive yellow flower, with small/medium canopy.
- **Flower Color:** Bright yellow
- **Flowering Season:** April - October
- **Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen
- **Native Origin:** Not native to Florida but considered Florida friendly
- **Salt Tolerance:** High



## Pigeon Plum



- **Distinctive characteristics:** Moderate growth, provides purple colored fruit for wildlife, medium canopy.
- **Flowering Season:** Spring to early summer
- **Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen
- **Native Origin:** Native to Florida
- **Salt Tolerance:** High

## Simpsons Stopper



- **Distinctive characteristics:** Fragrant white flower provides fruit for wildlife, small canopy.
- **Flower Color:** White, showy
- **Flowering Season:** Flowers year round, but favors August and September
- **Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen with no showy fall color
- **Native Origin:** Native to Florida
- **Salt Tolerance:** High



## Jamaica Caper



- **Distinctive Characteristics:** Attractive fragrant purple/white flower, provides fruit for wildlife, small/medium canopy.
- **Flower Color:** Emerges white becoming pinkish violet
- **Flowering Season:** April to June
- **Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen
- **Native Origin:** Native to Florida
- **Salt Tolerance:** High



## Lignum Vitae



- **Distinctive Characteristics:** Attractive purple/blue flower, small canopy, incredibly strong/dense wood with multiple past maritime uses.
- **Flower Color:** Purple/blue
- **Flowering Months:** Mostly anytime from Feb. to May
- **Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen
- **Native Origin:** Native to Florida
- **Salt Tolerance:** High